

SEEK ENGLISH DERBY

Vanderbilt, Croker, and Belmont Rivals for Classic.

KING'S COLT SLIGHT FAVORITE

Odds Against Royally Bred and Owned Entry Shortened by Plunge on Seaside II—Americans Seeking to Crown Season's Successes on British Turf by Winning Derby.

London, May 17.—Apparently this is to be an American year on the British turf.

Already two classics have fallen under the flying hoofs of American-bred horses. Norman III, owned by August Belmont, captured the Two Thousand Guineas, and Richard Croker's Rhodora took the One Thousand. Moreover, Norman III is a formidable candidate for the Derby, as is W. K. Vanderbilt's outrageously named colt Seaside II, while Mr. Croker looks to Rhodora to also land the Oaks. The One Thousand Guineas winner is also a Derby entry.

In looking back over the performances of the Yankee thoroughbreds, Norman III won the Two Thousand Guineas with the greatest ease, and the bubble over King Edward's colt, Perrier, quickly burst. The King's colt was a distinct disappointment, and the Belmont colt is likely to usurp his place at the head of the betting for the Derby.

In the last twenty-eight years the horses which have won the Two Thousand and four weeks later the Derby have been Shotover, Ormonde, Ayshire, Common, Isinglass, Ladys, Galtee More, Flying Fox, Diamond Jubilee, Rock Sand, and St. Amant.

Norman III is a bay colt by Octagon—Ninerve, bred at Mr. Belmont's Nursery in Kentucky. Ninerve is by the ill-fated out of Semiramis, the only St. Blaise mare that has foaled in England. Semiramis is out of Sultana by Lexington out of Hildred, of the famous Levitt family, a great race mare and a full sister to Monarchist.

Belmont's Nominations.

Mr. Belmont made two nominations for the Two Thousand Guineas, his second string being a half-brother to the winner, a colt called Crossbar, by Octagon—Lucy Cross. Richard Croker nominated the bay colt Republic, by Americus—King's Daughter; James R. Keene made three nominations, two colts by Disguise II and one by Commando, and Harry Payne Whitney made four nominations, a filly by Hamburg, a filly by Nasturtium, a colt that is a full brother of the famous Burgomaster, and a chestnut colt by Nasturtium. Norman III was sent to England as a yearling. Mr. Belmont raced Octagon, the sire of Norman III, which, by the way, is a half-brother to the great Belvedere, which was retired to Mr. Belmont's farm three years ago, and which recently dropped a foal by the English Derby winner, Rock Sand, now at the head of Mr. Belmont's stud.

Rhodora was pointed for the One Thousand Guineas at Glencalm, the former Tammany chieftain's place in Sandford, Ireland. There he has a brood of foals of the bluest blood, several of them being relatives of Orby, last year's Derby winner. After Rhodora won the Dewhurst Plate at Newmarket, Mr. Croker immediately saw visions of the completion of his measure of success on the English turf. He now wants the Oaks to fill his cup of bliss. Cap and Bells won the Oaks for James R. and E. P. Keene in hollow style six years ago.

Last year's Derby winner, Orby, has trained surprisingly well, and has quite recovered from the injury which defeated him for the Atlantic Stakes last year. He will reappear at the Epsom meeting, where Mr. Croker will also be represented by the two-year-old Alabama, an untied half-sister of the Derby winner. The Yale Blue will thus be carried at Epsom by three first class racers, all the progeny of the same famous mare, Rhodora B., a unique event of the turf of this country.

The plunge of future book bettors on W. K. Vanderbilt's Seaside II, causing that colt to be favorites for the Derby, to be run on June 3, is one of the surprises of the year. Just why Seaside should be backed is a mystery to every follower of the turf, including Vanderbilt's trainer. He showed nothing in his two-year-old form to make him seem more dangerous than the other competitors, but somebody undoubtedly has a strong inclination toward the French-bred colt. He has been played steadily until his odds have been forced down.

Held at 7 to 1.

In public sentiment, Sir Archibald, Perrier, and White Eagle are the choices. All are held at approximately 7 to 1 in what is known as "ante-post" betting, with Sir Archibald dividing honors with Seaside as a mild favorite. The opening favorite was White Eagle, who made a good record as a two-year-old last season, but he was soon supplanted by Perrier. The latter probably will go to the post the first choice.

It is no novelty for an American owner's horse to be favorite in the blue ribbon event of the turf. Orby was held at 6 to 1 last year, but it is said that Richard Croker and his Tammany cohorts gave the English bookies such a scorching when the colt won that they are not likely to take liberties with the price this season. Rhodora was one of the choices in the betting when Perrier Archer rode him to victory for Pierre Lorillard in 1881, and Vlodyovski, whose racing qualities were leased by the late W. C. Whitney, was also a favorite in the event. Moreover, when Col. Ten Broeck, of Kentucky, one of the most noted ante-bellum turfmen of his day, took Empire across the water, in 1860, the son of Le Comte was made a good record as a two-year-old last season, but he was soon supplanted by Perrier. The latter probably will go to the post the first choice.

The Derby now has three been won by American owners. The year when the event was taken by the late Mr. Whitney, however, witnessed the success of an English-bred three-year-old, as Vlodyovski was simply reared for the year.

His Sad Plight.

The political speaker had utterly bored his audience. Suddenly a man at the back of the hall (where all the humorists at public meetings congregate) gave a lifelike imitation of a donkey's voice. The audience was convulsed with laughter. But the speaker asked sternly:

"Who brayed there?"

The man at the back of the hall shouted out: "It was only an echo, sir. Go on with your speech!"

And the orator wished he could think of a repartee.

After the Day's Work

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OARSMAN JUMPS FROM SHELL

Oar Snaps and He Leaps Overboard to Aid Crew in Race.

Cambridge, Mass., May 17.—The annual Boston Cup regatta for Harvard class crews was won by the sophomore eight on the Charles yesterday afternoon in 11:59. The feature of the race was the work of the freshmen crew, which finished only a length behind the sophomores, rowing nearly the entire race with only seven men.

A quarter of a mile after the start, with the freshmen leading, Foster, No. 2 to the shell, snatched his oar. He leaped overboard in order not to be a dragstone to his mates, and in so doing displaced the oar of Whitney, No. 3, who lost ten strokes before recovering. The water was exceedingly rough, and Foster had to swim several minutes before he was picked up by the launch. "The members of the freshmen crew displayed presence of mind, fighting hard to regain the lead, but the sophomores beat them by a length. The seniors were third, and the juniors last."

Harvard will enter the sophomore crew in the two-mile race for junior eights at Philadelphia next Saturday.

BITTER PILL FOR O'BRIEN.

Double Cross Has Given Burns the Chance to Get Easy Money.

Philadelphia, May 17.—What a bitter pill it must be for Jack O'Brien to see Tommy Burns picking up so much easy money in Europe, all because of that double cross Tommy gave Jack out in California one year ago. Squires, Moir, Palmer, Roche, and Smith would likely have been nearly as easy for O'Brien as they proved to be for Burns, and it would have been Jack, and not Tommy, who would have been coining the cash had Burns kept his promise and lay down to O'Brien in place of licking him. O'Brien has not had a decent fight since that last affair with Burns on May 8, 1907, and had his business ventures turned out profitably, he very likely would have been given another chance to fight in public, for he admitted that nearly all his big matches had been frame-ups. After a long rest, he re-entered the ring in this city with a queer bout with Bill Herson, and then opened up a club of his own with a six-round bout with Jack Bonner, who had both passed his prime and been out of the game for some time.

Now O'Brien is matched with Jack Blackburn, the husky colored fighter, who, at best, is no heavier than a welterweight, and who has offered to make 133 pounds at 3 o'clock for Joe Gans. Blackburn has a wonderful defense, can hurt with either hand, and has beaten many men who weighed more than O'Brien does now, but at that he should be easy for Philadelphia Jack could the latter's past record be taken seriously. Of course it can't, however, for his bouts with Joe Walcott, Tommy Ryan, "Kid" McCoy, Sam Berger, Bob Fitzsimmons, Tommy Burns (first meeting), Jack Sullivan, etc., must be eliminated, leaving a list of victories that is not so formidable and one which Blackburn might possibly duplicate.

There is good reason to believe that this fight will be on the level, but it may not be very fierce. It will be up to O'Brien, who is the larger man, to show what he can do with the colored fellow who dares to presume that he is the equal of a fighter who at one time aspired to winning the championship of the world.

RACING CARDS FOR TO-DAY.

Belmont Park.

FIRST RACE—Five furlongs, straight course. 119 Torbellino 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 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